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Dear Colleague:

Access to the accumulated knowledge and resources concerning youth violence prevention is now easier and faster. We are pleased to announce the launch of the first ever National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center (NYVPRC) established by the Federal Working Group on Youth Violence and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The Resource Center provides parents, teenagers, health care providers, law enforcement officials and other professionals and concerned citizens a single, user-friendly point of access to critical information regarding youth violence and suicide including effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Injury and death due to violence disproportionately affect children, adolescents, and young adults in the United States. In our country, homicide is the second leading killer and suicide is the third leading cause of death of young people, ages 15-24. Until now, concerned citizens had to contact several federal agencies to find critical information about these public health problems. The Resource Center makes the search easier, guiding users to effective prevention strategies as well as ways of fostering positive youth development. The Resource Center includes:

- a bilingual (English/Spanish) toll-free telephone information line (866-SAFEYOUTH)
- an Internet site (www.safeyouth.org)
- technical assistance
- a clearinghouse for information and resources

By linking interested individuals and organizations to resources that can support their work—at the local, state and national levels—we believe the Resource Center will raise awareness about youth violence, and suicide and the most effective ways of combating these public health issues. The Internet site provides an information portal for teens, adults, and professionals, bridging to existing federal web sites containing thousands of resources, including funding opportunities, printed materials, reports, and references to other sources. It also provides statistics, highlights current federally-supported programs, the latest news on violence and suicide prevention, press releases, a calendar of events, a list of frequently asked questions and answers, and other helpful features.

Through the toll-free telephone number, callers can identify and order publications produced by federal agencies. Highly trained information specialists can also refer callers to other clearinghouses and resources for additional help and provide technical assistance to those seeking to prevent youth violence in their communities.

Stop youth violence before it starts

We invite you to access this new, comprehensive, credible and non-commercial gateway to free information on youth violence and suicide prevention and intervention, via the Internet at www.safeyouth.org and/or calling, toll-free, 1-866-SAFEYOUTH (866-723-3968) from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. (EST). We would appreciate your sharing the news of the establishment of the National Youth Violence Prevention Resource Center and the enclosed [brochure](#) with your staff and constituents.

We hope this information resource center will be helpful to you and want to express our appreciation for the important work you do to prevent youth violence and suicide in your community and in our nation.

If you would like any additional information, please contact Dr. Blumenthal at (202) 260-2255.

Sincerely,



RADM Susan Blumenthal, MD, M.P.A.
U.S. Assistant Surgeon General
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